

THE GATEWAY

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HOUSTON, WE HAVE A ROCKSTAR Rustic rocker Whitney Houston showed the PowerPlant what sweaty sweet rock was all about.

LEANNE FONG

CAUS hopes budget boost strengthens lobbying

JHENIFER PABILLANO
News Editor

Alberta's university lobby group is boosting its budget in a series of moves designed to strengthen its provincial voice.

After discussion this year, the Council of Alberta University Students (CAUS), the provincial lobby group representing Alberta's four universities, is upping member contributions to bring its funds to about \$65 000—almost ten times its previous budget.

With the new funding, CAUS plans on hiring a full-time staff member and supporting a regular external media lobby campaign. The group hopes these initiatives will lay the foundation for stronger, more organized provincial lobbying.

"I hate to say it, but when it comes to lobbying, money talks," says Melanee Thomas, President of the University of Lethbridge Students' Union.

PLEASE SEE CAUS • PAGE 3

Faculty budget cuts hike entry averages

KRISTINE OWRAM
Associate News Editor

Budget cuts to the faculties totalling \$17.3 million will result in enrolment cutbacks, higher average entry grades, and hiring moratoriums over the next three years.

In December 2001, the General Faculties Council (GFC) announced all faculties were to cut seven per cent out of their base administrative budgets and an additional 4.4 per cent from the rest of their operations. Then,

in January of this year, deans were informed they were going to have to cut a further one per cent from their total budgets.

The administration had to cut funding to all faculties because of a massive structural deficit in their operating budget totalling millions of dollars, said Philip Stack, Director of Resource Planning at the U of A. This deficit is mainly the result of increases in utility costs the province has seen over the last few years.

But Stack reassured students and fac-

ulty members that the administration is working to ensure long-term financial stability.

"It's really important to keep in mind that while we're applying base operating reductions, we're also trying to take a balanced approach to continuing to fund strategic initiatives that will ensure long-term financial stability," said Stack. "We don't want to negatively impact morale and we want to ensure we continue to move forward."

PLEASE SEE CUTBACKS • PAGE 2

Striking UBC TAs sent back to work by BC gov't

Bill forcing end to strike passes in less than half a day

CHRIS SHEPHERD
The Ubsyssey

VANCOUVER (CUP) — Striking unions at the University of British Columbia (UBC) were sent back to the bargaining tables after the provincial government passed a bill forcing them to return to their normal duties.

Bill 21, the University of British Columbia Services Continuation Act, was passed by the provincial leg-

islature last Wednesday night and made law Thursday morning. It prohibits any union on campus from taking strike action until 31 March and requires that the University and the unions return to the bargaining

"It's a good thing for students. It'll give them certainty after a long period of a lot of uncertainty."

SCOTT MACRAE,
UBC DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

table by Saturday.

"People are damn angry at what this government and what Marsha Piper have done to us," said Teaching Assistant (TA) Union President Alex Grant.

"They have taken away our right to protest, our right to strike, our right to free speech."

But Scott Macrae, director of Public Affairs for the University, said UBC sees the legislation as having positive points.

"It's a good thing for students. It'll give them certainty after a long period of a lot of uncertainty," Macrae said.

PLEASE SEE UBCTAS • PAGE 2



KATE TWISDIE

DJ Tripswitch spins with an unknown dancer in SUB Friday to raise awareness for the War Child campus charity. Others DJs could be found spinning in HUB.



6 The hoop Bears were in Halifax for the CIS championships this weekend. The Ubsyssey's Sarah Condie reports on the squad—needless to say, they didn't fare as well as they'd hoped.

Inside

News 1-4
Opinion 6-9
A&E 11-13
Sports 14-15
Features 16-17
Comics 19
Classifieds 20

Outside

Tuesday Hurries, go down to Alphabet Street; High 4, Low -6
Wednesday Sunny, buy flilly shirt; High 3, Low -10
Thursday Sunny, get a raspberry beret, the kind you buy at a second-hand store; High 2, Low -10
Friday Sun and clouds, change name to symbol, become totally irrelevant; High 3, Low -9
Source: Environment Canada



From the archives

In response to the audible grumbings of campus tummies between the lunch and supper hour, the Gateway suggested the introduction of a fourth daily meal. The paper endorsed not brunch or the lesser-known linner, but followed the British example to suggest campus-wide afternoon tea. Noted by writer Emma Sadgrove to be "a welcome meal after a hard day of the student life," afternoon tea was suggested as a sociable way to alleviate afternoon hunger. Though tea can include any small-ettles that suit the appetite, Sadgrove recommended recipes for such classics as scones with English Devon cream, lemon loaf, and rum and pecan crisps. Pinkies up!

1986



16 21 March is international stop racism day. Today in features we explore the remaining injustices in the world. Racism is bad, alright? So stand up and make a difference.

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colophon

The Gateway is created using Apple Macintosh computers, Hewlett-Packard Scanjet 3c and Linimix Astra 600 flatbed scanners, and Canon CanoScan 5400F optical film scanner. Adobe InDesign is used for layout. Adobe Illustrator is used for vector images, while Adobe Photoshop is used for raster images. Adobe Acrobat is used to create PDF files which are immediately in print to be mounted on the printing press. Text is set in a variety of sizes, styles, and weights of Times, Times New Roman, and Arial.

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Breigan Lake, Sweetheymann, Michael Fowles, Anthony Bregazzi, James Brash, Andrew "D" Rapp, Helen Zhe-Hang, Sarah Giesche, Derek Fernald, Joel Chung, Zhe-Bart, Leanne Fong, Katie Twissell, Lauren Jennings, Julie Edworthy, Sharon Barbour, Bill Barbour, Kevin Mac, Eric, Mikah, Megan Simko, Rudi Gunther, Dave Alexander, Matthew Mack, Meghan Wain, NIK BOLLANZAT, May Yip, and not out of Sharnock Shale.

Opposition MLA calls back-to-work law a cynical ploy to stop TA strike

UBC TAs * CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"And we think it's good that it orders the parties to resume collective bargaining, because where there is bargaining and talking, there is reasonable hope for a settlement."

Bill 21 came after the university tried to prevent TAs from protesting on campus. The university applied to the Labour Relations Board (LRB), claiming on-campus picketing was too disruptive and the university was private land. The move failed because the LRB decided the matter was not under its jurisdiction.

The law was introduced by Minister of Skills Development and Labour Graham Bruce to allow a cooling-off period. The bill deals specifically with CUPE 2278 (TAs) and CUPE 2950 (Chin Centre for the Performing Arts staff and support staff, including library workers), but also applies to any other trade union representing employees of UBC.

The bill was passed by the legislature in under twelve hours. Bruce said it was necessary to pass the law quickly

to ensure the academic year was not jeopardized by the strike action. He met with both parties and came to the conclusion that negotiations had become non-productive.

"We're really upset that the government intervened, but at the same time, what can you do? A lot of students are happy that they've been legislated back to work and that their classes can continue and that the library is open."

**OANA CHIRILA,
UBC SU PRESIDENT**

"It was pretty clear to me that the negotiating process had become somewhat dysfunctional," he said, imply-

ing that neither party agreed to have the common goal of coming to a resolution.

Bruce had also received a letter from UBC President Martha Piper via the Minister of Advanced Education. According to Bruce, the letter said UBC had significant concerns about classes and students' academic year being wasted. Macrae would not discuss the letter's content, although he acknowledged the letter was sent.

Joy MacPhail, currently the only opposition MLA, criticized the bill, asserting that the school had a part in its creation. "It certainly assists the employer," she said.

She described Bill 21 as a cynical ploy on the part of the BC Liberals to get the TAs back to work. "The legislation does nothing to actually resolve the dispute," she said. MacPhail added that this action is postponing TAs' ability to take strike action until final exams in April—a time she believes students would be less supportive of TAs because they're needed to mark exams.

She said the government is responsible for this dispute because it funds the university, which in turn pays the TAs.

"Frankly, there were other ways this government could have handled this rather than provoking such a strong reaction from the TAs," MacPhail said of a large TA protest on Thursday, "I lay it entirely on the government's feet," she said.

Having TAs working again is a mixed blessing, said UBC student union president Oana Chirila.

"We're really upset that the government intervened, but at the same time, what can you do?" she asked. "A lot of students are happy that they've been legislated back to work and that their classes can continue and that the library is open."

"It's great that they've come back to work but I think that for the TAs it's going to be a lot harder to get what they want."

With files from Duncan McHugh, Kathleen Deering and Mike Lammela

Lack of space also a problem for faculties, say deans

CUTBAOS * CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The strategic initiatives that will be continued include recruitment, support mechanisms aimed at new students, and teaching enhancement initiatives, said Stack.

Despite these promises, most faculties are still going to have to make compromises to deal with the funding cutbacks that started last year and will continue for the next three.

"These cutbacks are a substantive reduction coming after years of prosperity," said Gregory Taylor, Acting Dean of Science. "We haven't had a lot of feedback [regarding the cuts] yet, as we're still in the process of formulating plans, but I honestly believe this will affect morale, energy, enthusiasm, and productivity."

The faculty of science will be forced to cut 27 academic positions and twelve support staff positions over the next three years. The average grade for a high school student to gain conditional acceptance to the faculty will also go up to 80 per cent next year from 70 per cent this year.

The faculty of arts is facing similar concerns. Over the next three years, almost 30 academic positions will be cut from the faculty as staff leave and aren't replaced, and they are planning

on trimming student enrolment from approximately 6000 to 5650.

As a result, the faculty expects to raise its average entry grade to 72 per cent next year, from 70 per cent this year.

The provincial government is responsible for ensuring similar cutbacks will not have to be made in the future, said Dean of Arts Daniel Woolf.

"Fundamentally, the provincial government are not funding the universities at the level they need to be to keep pace with inflation," he said. "However, I'm pretty optimistic that this is just a temporary problem. In the long term, we're in a province with resources that has the ability to fund post-secondary education."

Both Taylor and Woolf cited space issues as one of their biggest concerns for the future of their faculties.

"Even before this enrolment increase, we desperately needed massive additional teaching space, to say nothing of office and research space," said Woolf. "We just don't have the classroom space or the money to create extra sections. We're to the point now where we physically can't stuff more students into a classroom without the fire marshal getting on our case."



CONCERNED ABOUT CUTS Dean of Arts Daniel Woolf will reduce staff and limit enrolment to deal with proposed budget cuts to his faculty.

STUDY IN AUSTRALIA

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1pm - 3pm
Rm 402, Students' Union Building

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6:00PM MONDAY MARCH 24, 2003
ENGINEERING TEACHING AND LEARNING CENTRE (ETLC), ROOM 001

The Annual General Meeting allows graduate students to voice their opinions on and to vote to approve a number of important issues. Included in this year's agenda items are:

- Election of President and VP Labour Relations
- Approval of the GSA's 2003-2004 Budget
- Proposed amendments to the GSA's Constitution
- Election of at-large Graduate student representatives to the General Faculties Council and Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research Council
- Report from the GSA Executive outlining their activities this year
- Report from the Graduate Student Ombudsman

This is the key opportunity for graduate students to hear and interact with their GSA representatives and we strongly encourage all students to come out and participate!

A light supper will be provided at 5:30pm for all who attend. For more information please call the GSA office at 492-2175 or drop in to see us at 206N Power Plant.

ALL GRADUATE STUDENTS ARE WELCOME!

STREETERS

A recent study said three out of four students rely on loans to make it through their post-secondary education programs.

Are you in debt to finance your education?



Cindy Ly
Dental Hygiene III

Yes, I have student loans. My program costs \$40,000, and my student loan only covers \$15,000. My loans are not adequate, and I applied for bursaries, scholarships that I could possibly get, but it's not enough. Just to keep up with my expenses, I have to work on Saturdays. But Dental Hygiene students have special consideration with the Access Fund, and we usually get the full amount of \$3000.



Brad Langdale
Education II

My first year I wasn't sure how much I needed to live on my own, so I just decided to take a student loan just to be safe. I ended up getting some scholarships, about \$8000. Now I have about \$2000 in student loans, and no credit card debt. Hopefully I can just get away with the debt I have now by working full-time over the summer, and budgeting the money I make to stretch it out to the next summer.



Janelle Pakan
Science IV

My parents make enough to be able to pay for my education, and I don't have any other debt. I know a lot of people who do have debt, and it's really sad that you have to come out of school and work at fast food places just to pay it off. I appreciate [my parents paying], and I mean, I have full intentions of paying my parents back once I have a real job. I'm pretty lucky that they can support me.



Spencer Weiss
Business V

Yes, terribly. I have private loans because my dad makes too much. I think I'm about \$30,000 in loans and that's for my first four years. I don't have credit card [debt], but I maxed out on my student loans this year. That's another \$7000 right there. It'll probably take five to ten years to pay off. [To make ends meet.] I had to work for the last three years, basically full-time, during school. I eventually got to about 40 hours a week.

Compiled and photographed
by May Yip and Patrick Finlay



CAUS campaigns like the Generation Debt campaign held this week may be strengthened next year with additional funding.

Plan gives lobby group full-time staff member

CAUS hopes staff member will provide continuity and strengthen provincial lobby efforts

CAUS • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"If you have the money to get your issue to the media, you can affect public opinion and then public policy. We get the token lip service, but we hope to get a lot more clout."

Under the new plan, the student unions from the University of Alberta, University of Calgary, University of Lethbridge, and Athabasca University will contribute a dollar per student to CAUS. Previously, funding was shouldered by the university with the elected CAUS chair, as members were not required to pay specific dues and simply contributed as they saw fit.

But while members have agreed in principle to the funding, only Athabasca University has actually approved funds. The others expect to pass budget requests or search for funding. Anand Sharma, CAUS chair and U of A SU Vice-President (External), said the U of A SU will likely use funding freed up in December when the SU dropped its membership in the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations, a national student lobbying group.

CAUS started in 1986, after the breakup of the Federation of Alberta Students, a group that represented all post-secondary students in Alberta. Since then, said Sharma, CAUS remained mainly a loose coalition, not even retaining its own bank account or official society status with the province, issues the group will also address this year.

The full-time staff member will have an independent office, likely in Edmonton due to the proximity of the Legislature. Debbie Jabour, Athabasca University Students' Union President, said the demands of CAUS lobbying this year made the need for such a staff member clear.

"We found during this past year we were involved in so many activities to raise awareness, and we noticed the lack of cohesion, because [CAUS staff] are busy with their home SUs. ... We've got a very powerful tool we can use through CAUS but we need a central person," she said.

The staff member, added Sharma, would also help lobby over the summer, when many education decisions are made.

Sharma said the funds will also hopefully make for a sustained external media campaign, placing advertisements in provincial publications to raise awareness about university issues. A \$25,000 media campaign was launched this past year, and CAUS plans to set aside a similar amount for the ad blitz each year.

"We noticed the lack of cohesion, because [CAUS staff] are busy with their home SUs. ... We've got a very powerful tool we can use through CAUS but we need a central person."

DEBBIE JABOUR, SU PRESIDENT,
ATHABASCA UNIVERSITY

In other ventures, CAUS is also planning to become part of an umbrella group that will again unite all Alberta post-secondary students, but will only lobby on common concerns. The umbrella group, called the Alberta Coalition of Students, tentatively includes ACTISAC, the provincial college and technical institute lobby group, and the Alberta Graduate Council, the provincial graduate students group.

"It's still so much in the working stages, it's hard to predict what might happen, but ... we're sharing so many issues, even with general education, K-12, that that kind of an alliance is a good idea. Instead of cross-purposes, we'll have a united voice to say education is a priority," said Jabour.

CAUS SUCSESSES

- In 1994-95 CAUS succeeded in maintaining the yearly tuition cap.
- CAUS saw a victory in 1999-2000 with the announcement of the Jason Lang Scholarship, an award automatically bestowed on first-year students who achieve honors standing. Increased lobbying was undertaken to include second and third-year students in this award.

Source: www.caus.net

Who's that girl?

Well, she's not a Gateway news writer, that's for sure. The poor girl never saw how great newswriting could be...and if she writes like she acts, maybe that's lucky for us. Shanghai Surprise, anyone?

It may be too late for Madge to cherish News, but thank your lucky star there's still time for you to face the music. If you're like a virgin to this newswriting bag, drop by a news meeting in 3-04 SUB, Tuesday at 4pm. Bring your cone shaped bra and your ex-husband Sean Penn.

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THANKS TO CJSR FOR A WELL FOUGHT/PLAYED FINAL GAME

Students' dependency on debt growing

New study shows student loans don't meet student requirements

CHRIS WILSON-SMITH
Ontario Bureau Chief

TORONTO (CUP) — A national survey released on 10 March found that three out of four students rely on incurring debt to make it through their post-secondary education programs.

The average accumulation of debt is \$5600 per year, with overall debt estimates as high as \$20 000 for some students.

The survey was commissioned by the Millennium Scholarship Foundation, an autonomous organization created by the federal government that offers financial assistance to Canadian students.

"While the survey shows us that students have varying financial circumstances, student financial aid programs tend to treat students as being the same," said Alex Usher, the foundation's director of research and program development.

"Very little is actually known about how much money students earn from the numerous sources available to them, nor about what they choose to spend their money on," he continued.

The survey revealed that students aged 20-21 face the largest monthly budgetary deficit, with an average shortfall of \$142.

Usher explained this group experiences less support from parents or other family members than younger

students, is not eligible for the kinds of public and private debt-based financing older students have access to, and generally earn less than older students.

The survey also found that nine out of ten students earn an average of \$4000 in the summer, which still leaves most students with a \$56 monthly shortfall during the school year.

In general, as students age, their family circumstances and lifestyle change, resulting in increased income and expenditures, as well as increased debt, the survey says.

"These findings beg the question: do our student financial aid programs have the right clients, and are we providing them with appropriate support?"

ALEX USHER,
MSF DIRECTOR OF RESEARCH AND
PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT.

Young students have lower educational costs, are more likely to live with their parents, and are more likely to receive financial support from their families.

"These findings give the question: do our student financial aid programs have the right clients, and are we providing them with appropriate support?" Usher asked.

A representative of a major Ontario student organization says the answer is an emphatic "no."

Leslie Church, executive director of the Ontario Undergraduate Student Alliance, which represents full-time and part-time students across the province, said student loan systems need to be more responsive to realistic needs.

"In order to ensure true financial accessibility to post-secondary students, students must have access to a student aid plan that effectively reflects the resources at their disposal to apply against the costs of post-secondary education," she said.

But while the Canadian Federation of Students indicated a needs-based student aid program is "desperately needed," the group disagreed with many of the survey's conclusions.

Joel Duff, the Ontario chairperson of the national student group, said the Foundation "underestimated the student debt crisis in Canada."

According to Duff, the conclusions the Millennium Scholarship Foundation drew from the survey falsely represent the accumulated debtload of the average student by averaging the debt of "first-year students to graduate students."

"To be honest, they have to average the debt-load of students after they graduate, to get a real idea of what students pay throughout their post-secondary careers," he said.

Duff said he is concerned that the foundation is coming to "some pretty scary conclusions."

"They are saying that the best way to solve the student financial shortfall is to increase the amount of loans available to them," he said.

Duff said the real answer is "right under their noses."

"Instead of increasing student debt, why don't they just lower tuition?"

NATIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

Compiled by Kristine Owram

MAN DEAD AFTER SHOOTING NEAR RYERSON CAMPUS

TORONTO (CUP) — Toronto Police have released details about a fatal shooting on the evening of 11 March outside a Tim Hortons near Ryerson University.

Police found the dead man, who was shot with a handgun, lying on a snow bank. On Wednesday night, police identified him as 23-year-old Jerry Buguey-Twun of Toronto. Detective Sergeant Terry Wark of the homicide squad said Buguey-Twun had a criminal record and was "known to police" as someone who frequented the Yonge and Dundas area. He would not give further details.

Police believe Buguey-Twun was having a conversation with a man in the driver's seat of a dark-coloured mid-sized four-door car parked on the east side of Victoria Street when the suspect pulled out a gun and began firing at close range. The victim reportedly stumbled across the street and fell where police found him.

Ryersonian staff, The Ryersonian

UBC SCIENTIST HELPS CREATE CANADA'S FIRST SPACE TELESCOPE

VANCOUVER (CUP) — Canada's first space telescope is getting a boost from University of British Columbia physics and astronomy professor Jamie Matthews, whose efforts have helped make an inexpensive telescope capable of finding worlds in other solar systems.

Matthews is the head scientist behind the Microvariability and Oscillations of Stars (MOST) satellite, nicknamed "the humble space telescope" as it is one of the world's first microsatellite space telescopes.

While the Hubble space telescope is

over five stories high, MOST is no bigger than a suitcase. And unlike the \$2.2 billion (US) cost of the Hubble space telescope, MOST is being launched for only \$10 million (CAD), with most of the money provided by the Canadian Space Agency.

Because of its amazing sensitivity, MOST will also be able to look for planets orbiting distant stars. MOST should be able to detect the change in light levels as the planets show different phases during their orbits.

MOST is expected to be in orbit for up to ten years, depending on how the satellite fares in space.

Zerah Lurie, The Ubyssy

CANADIAN ALLIANCE MP BLASTS BC POLICY ON SAFE INJECTION SITES

VANCOUVER (CUP) — BC has been silent on Vancouver's plan to open a safe-injection site in the drug-plagued Downtown Eastside for too long and needs to say where they stand on the issue now, said Canadian Alliance MP John Duncan.

The comments come less than a week after a 200-page proposal to install Canada's first safe injection sites at two Vancouver locations was submitted to Health Canada by the Vancouver Coastal Health Authority.

The MP for Vancouver Island North criticized the BC government on 10 March for not adopting a firmer position on detox, rehabilitation, intervention, education, and enforcement in BC's drug war.

Norman Ruff, a University of Victoria political scientist, said it is not surprising the BC government has not spoken plainly about safe-injection sites, which are part of the prevention, treatment, harm reduction and law enforcement approach to drug addiction imported from Switzerland by former Vancouver mayor Philip Owen in 2001. It is an issue that might cause conflict within a party supported by a broad base of social conservatism, he said.

Kevin Groves, British Columbia Bureau

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Parenthood cash incentive is a sketchy proposition

CANADA IS AGING, and not just in the "fine wine" sense. Its people are aging, too. While this is obviously a very normal and healthy progression, it is indeed cause for concern. Who's going to pick up the slack when our aging population retires?

This is a question that has been on the mind of Québec's premier, Bernard Landry, for a while now. Landry fears that a once-sexually prolific population is not only aging, but also not reproducing the way it used to. According to the Québec Institute of Statistics, Québec's workforce will shrink by 294 000 between 2010 and 2020. That leaves very few people in the workforce to support boomer seniors once they retire.

This is happening all over the world, however; birthrates in Québec, Canada, and even developing nations are declining. The culprit of this unfortunate reality is our lifestyle. Western nations and Western influence have made success and wealth a priority that supersedes starting families. Bernard Landry's solution to the problem of a declining workforce is tax exemption and cash incentives for getting pregnant.

On the surface, these incentives seem reasonable. Finish school, have a child within five years, and have up to half of your student loan paid off. A similar program was undertaken in 1987 by the late Robert Bourassa; he offered cash incentives—called baby bonuses—depending on the number of children a couple had. The incentive worked. Québecers' fertility lapsed 12 per cent between 1987 and 1997.

While it's a normal occurrence for wealthy, educated nations' birthrates to drop, this strategy is sketchy; placing a dollar value on children is reckless. It may just be added incentive for some couples who were already considering having children, but what about the couples who do it only for the money? Although the likelihood of a new population explosion is small, there's still the possibility that some couples not even remotely interested in having kids are simply going to do this for the cash.

Perhaps most troubling is that this move signifies a larger problem—one happening all over the world. Money is an obsession, and its pervasiveness has not only poisoned the Western world, but it has also started to infect other nations. A drive for individual success is killing the family unit. On its own, this may not seem like such a big deal; we are, after all, individuals. There are other places from which one can draw support, be it moral or otherwise. But with the move away from these values there is a move away from other traditions.

Frankly, I'd prefer a world where people might not be disgustingly wealthy but where closer family ties mean people are happy, and successful. Money might make the world go 'round, but it certainly doesn't have to, and neither should it provide incentive for bringing new lives into the world.

ADAM ROZENHART
Entertainment Editor

War is now

FINALLY, WE CAN STOP FUMBLING over adjectives like "impending" and "may" refer directly to something called "the war in Iraq," or at least that's what Monday morning's paper says, confirmed by Bush's latest speech. The inevitable is now close, very close, but I still think we can't lose sight of the big picture.

Let's focus on two points some *Journal* pundits are saying. One: If the war is slow and brutal, Tony Blair's career is finished, and George W. Bush's term will end at four years. Two: If the war is quick, the discredit won't be the governments', but the protesters.

Apparently, they argue, once a cause fails, the proponents are idiots. I'm going to have to differ on this one: peace isn't a singular cause, attached to a singular war. Peace is always a possibility, and long after Iraq and the next crisis, a worthy cause, a smart cause, and a cause none of us should be embarrassed to endorse.

RAYMOND BIESINGER
Managing Editor

LETTERS

Reikie out of touch with Students' Council

I must take issue with Councillor Reikie's letter ("SU Council out of touch on war, other things," 13 March) concerning Students' Council's handling of his and Councillor Slomp's motions that the SU should take a stance on Iraq.

Specifically, Councillor Reikie alleges that Councillors aren't aware of their constituents' views on the war, and thus made an unrepresentative decision in refusing to pass his motions. He further asks, "If representatives can't represent the general feelings of their faculty concerning something as major as a seemingly unjust war waged by an international bully, what the hell can they represent for their students?"

With all due respect to my fellow Councillor, I must disagree: each of the constituents I've consulted on this matter told me, regardless of whether they were in favour or opposed to the war, it was inappropriate for the SU to take a stance. Further, my constituents are divided on the question of whether the war is justified and how (and whether) it should go forward.

In first seeking to have the SU not consider Councillor Reikie and Slomp's motions, and then in opposing their adoption, I was expressing the vocally-expressed opinion of my constituents.

Councillor Reikie then continues his letter by expressing his disappointment at my comments during Council about whether a war is justified. Contrary to his implication, I did not say I was in favour of a war on solely economic grounds. I said a strong case in favour of a war could be constructed on economic grounds, in addition to those more often made with respect to liberating the Iraqi people from a brutal dictator, lifting the fear that a known aggressor will once again attack across the Iraqi frontier, and freeing the Kurdish people from their bondage.

The question of whether Hussein's regime in Iraq should fall is not within the competence of the Students' Union. For Council to spend its time debating whether all students share a general opinion with respect to the merits of a war in Iraq, let alone what that opinion is, is nothing more than a waste of Council's efforts.

CHRIS JONES
Computer Engineering V
Engineering Councillor

Asking girls out is scarier than death

About Chris André's article ("Nice Guys are Doomed," 11 March), Chris raised some very valid points and I would like to commend him for it, but I do have some disagreements.

I, like many others, am one of those "nice guys" who has never had a date. I don't, however, blame women for that status. That can be attributed to what some people might deem an incredibly insane way for me to rank things that scare me: let's just say that the prospect of death scares me less than asking a girl out. So, while the theory of simply asking someone out and, sooner or later, stopping that losing



streak, is a good one, some of us just can't physically get the words out, no matter how bad we want to.

Also, no matter how pissed off you are at a guy, it's not a good idea to kick him in the nuts. Be decent and give the asshole a black eye (I'm just joking. Violence isn't necessary).

Unless divine intervention changes my cynical perspective (in my position, it's hard not to be cynical), I guess I'm doomed to stay single. But the Lord works in mysterious ways, so who knows what can happen.

DUSTIN DEGENHART
Engineering I

Peace the only solution to disagreement

Regarding Nathan Stelmach's letter to the editor, "Slogans and empty rhetoric doom activists" (27 February), Nathan, do you honestly think that George Bush is advocating war in Iraq because he wants to free its citizens from the tyranny of Saddam Hussein?

Do you think that Iraq is such a threat that it justifies launching a war that will surely kill many of its citizens, not to mention our own soldiers? Keep in mind Iraq has not actually initiated any violence towards us, and any links between terrorism and Iraq seem a little tenuous.

Absolute peace is a rare thing, but that doesn't mean that we shouldn't strive for it. The fact is that conflicts have been resolved peacefully in the past. What about the division of Czechoslovakia? What about the independence movement in India led by Gandhi? What about the Buddhist monks struggling right now in Tibet? Yes, violence exists, but we can choose to abstain from it.

Make no mistake, Nathan, this war is not about freeing people or defending ourselves or anything useful. It seems senseless to launch a war on such a beaten-down country when many of the consequences of this war are unforeseeable.

LISA GUENTHER
Education IV

Bell and Bush full of junky arguments

In regards to Colin Bell's 4 March article "Bush is not a warmonger," I must concede that Bush isn't. He's something far worse. He's planning ahead.

Nothing helps a leader's popularity quite like a successful war. Churchill was considered a fantastic leader until the Second World War ended: he wasn't re-elected. Neither was Thatcher after the Falklands war. Bush wants a second term and continual war seems to be his method of securing popularity. It reminds me of George Orwell's "War is peace" from 1984: foreign blood falling on foreign soil for votes.

And as for the remark that "Saddam has already killed thousands of his own people," does that in any way justify the slaughter of more? No. Enough have died already.

"In fact, military action is the only practical solution to the situation in Iraq." When has war ever been practical?

And as for the UN not enforcing its resolutions, Iraq has been under sanctions for over ten years. Even pencils are banned in Iraq because the graphite can be used in nuclear reactors. Over 300 000 Iraqi troops died in the Gulf War and a further 1.4 million more innocent civilians because of destruction to water and sanitary facilities.

Iraq was not allowed to sell oil or buy the materials necessary to repair them. The citizens of Iraq have suffered enough; they don't need freedom delivered in 600b high-yield farms.

The United States are widely viewed as the "leaders of the free world" and a bastion of democracy. It seems strange to me that they are also the leaders of disregarding the sovereignty of other nations. Saddam Hussein is a scourge and can't be allowed to continue to act the way he does, but what happened the last time America decided to get rid of a foreign "dictator" and "liberate" the citizens? The Taliban arose.

Before that? The Chilean people had the audacity to democratically elect Salvador Allende, so what happened August Pinochet's military

coup. Before Allende, there was Ho Chi Min. The result? Yet another war.

Bush isn't a warmonger. He's just another President of the United States. It's just history repeating.

BRUCE CLAYTON
Engineering I

Punk has many ovaries but lacks balls

In response to Kirsten McGree's article in the 13 March issue, "Punk needs more ovaries," I would like to help her in her search and recommend the following grungy-punk bands for any interested party to check out.

Some are playing now, and some are no longer with us: the Plasmatics, 7L Lunachicks, the Muffs, the Donnas, Le Tigre, Nashville Pussy, Kitty No Doubt, the S. G. 7z (from Japan), Becky Bondage (singer of Vice Squad), F-Minus (a guy/girl duo), and, if you're woman enough, Rock Bitch.

Some will disagree with me on some of these, but I'll leave it up to you to form your opinion.

Now, I would like a similar favour from the Gateway. Please let me know of any real guy punk bands to hit the scene anytime after 1994 (when SNFU sold out). You can put them in an article called "Punk needs more balls." Manufactured boy-punk bands with numbers in their name (Blink 182, Sum 41, Matchbox 20, etc.) just don't cut it.

JOHN SOLTICE
Grad Studies II

Letters to the editor should be dropped off at room 3-04 of the Students' Union Building or e-mailed to managing@gatewayualberta.ca.

The Gateway reserves the right to edit letters for length and clarity, and to refuse publication of any letter it deems racist, sexist, libelous, or otherwise hateful in nature.

Letters to the editor should be no longer than 350 words, and should include the name, student identification number, program, and year of study of the author, to be considered for publication.

Heady American anger births the heavy metal 'saw-tar'



DAVE
ALEXANDER

If the past week proved anything conclusive about this whole Middle East crisis, it's that the only thing more powerful than the resolve of the White House to go to war is the insistence of Americans to undermine their own credibility.

While the George W. Millionaire Petro Club spit-shines the war machine, newscasters do everything to scare you, short of convincing you your face is on fire. Sure, the folks at 3M are grinning ear-to-ear as duct tape and plastic war sales soar, but the byproduct of abject terror is misplaced hatred looking for an outlet.

The result, strangely enough, is "freedom fries." In case you haven't heard, last week, congress cafeterias changed the "French" in "French fries" and "French toast" to "Freedom," to stick it to those war-hating Jerry Lewis lovers (who had the audacity to point out that French fries are actually from Belgium). Would congress have banned the food outright had it been, say, French bran muffins or French wheat grass? Not likely.

Ironically, the Arab News (www.arabnews.com) reported recently that McDonald's, in an effort to stop hemorrhaging money in the Middle East, launched the "McArabia," a sandwich with "Arab sauce" and

ingredients made in countries such as Britain and Malaysia.

But try pointing out such inconsistencies to the convenience store owner who pulled bottles of Evian off his shelves, the tie-wearing dudes who took sledgehammers to a Peugeot, or the cheering crowd that poured French wine down the gutter—all featured on a CBS news report this week.

The saw-tar is not only the perfect symbol for loud, violent, and really freakin' dangerous US rock 'n' roll war rhetoric, it's a potential bomb-free alternative to war.

Wouldn't it make more sense to boycott a product from Iraq, like say, oil? And what's next? How long before boy scouts curbstomp Paul Newman after finding his brand of French dressing in the fridge?

It's too easy for generations weaned on Pepe Le Pew cartoons and a distrust of escargot to pick on France, particularly when the Middle Eastern terrorists thrust in largely faceless, and in moments of hysteria, like people of Middle Eastern descent being kicked off of planes because of their appearance, even baseless. It's been noted (rarely) in some news reports that there are just as many Americans who agree

with France as there are those stuffing their faces with freedom and ketchup, but who wants to watch pacifism when you can see a Peugeot get dusted?

This media-driven double standard and misguided bravado undermines the US government's attempts to win friends on the world stage. And the more resistance the White House encounters, the harder they have to wag the dog, and the redder the terror-o-meter gets on CNN, causing yet more fear-induced anger and, God-fordit, Evian embargoes.

Seems like a hopeless spiral, right? It might be, if a fellow named Jesse James Dupree hadn't made the news. Dupree is the singer for Georgia hard rock band Jackyl. If you caught them opening for bands like Skid Row in the early '90s, you may remember their fondness for sawing a stool in half with a chainsaw. Well, they're still kickin', and as reported at www.ncbby.com, Dupree has melded his two loves into something called a "saw-tar," which is apparently both a working electric guitar and functional chainsaw. Seriously.

The saw-tar is not only the perfect symbol for loud, violent, and really freakin' dangerous US rock 'n' roll war rhetoric, it's a potential bomb-free alternative to war. Just imagine how quickly the Iraqi army would Scud their pants and surrender if they witnessed a battalion of metalheads walking across the desert in a line, wearing phallic saw-tars and playing "Star-Spangled Banner." Now that's the type of honest American showmanship worth tuning in to.



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The 97 Street slugger is cursing the city



RAYMOND
BISINGER

It's not like I don't like the idea of the newest aluminium wonder of Edmonton, the 15m-tall baseball bat erected last Monday at 118 Avenue and 97 Street. It's just that it's cursed our city, despite having a user-friendly button any visitor can press that actually rotates the bat. Its masters' noble aims seem civic enough, too, that it'll help rusting and grey buildings of Alberta Avenue into the World Series of shopping, commerce and sports history, but still, this city is in deep trouble.

All 1125 kilograms of it may be illuminated at night, but I'd still feel safer if we kept armed guards and a cage surrounding it. The day it was unveiled—obviously, not by coincidence—a fire burned out of control at Ashbury Place, right across the street from the Gateway's incoming Editor-in-Chief Chris Boute's house, leaving a dozen or so tenants homeless, including local celebrity and record-store clerk Travis Sargent.

For most of Tuesday morning, two firefighters were assumed dead while the blaze was being brought down, but to reflect on another, more permanent tragedy: the aforementioned Travis Sargent lost a lot of vintage and rare records in the fire. And note the vintage of the building, too: according to a few of my trusted contemporaries, it was somewhere around 40

years old. It may have been ugly as sin, yes, but still, a historic sight in itself, and in it, the beginnings of a motive. Yes... a motive.

Then, note the fire on Whyte Ave last Thursday night, the same one that put Albert's Family Restaurant, Scales & Tails, the New York Bagel Café and some other places out of commission, reducing them to cinders. Not only did the blaze cause "risqué" fellows, myself included, to make dumb jokes about fried animals on special at Albert's, but it destroyed a nearly 100-year-old property.

That's a definite loss: Albert's, now an imperial power of pancakes, started on that corner in 1962, and arguably, up until Thursday night, they still served orange juice and water from that era. I can remember many head-ache-filled mornings on that corner, marvelling at how the waitresses kept thick wads of bills in an old pipe near the cashier's booth, a vestige of days when safes were sitting ducks for

masked men and six-shooters.

That, in itself, is much more interesting than a giant aluminium bat that doesn't even come close to trumping Louisville, Kentucky's world's largest baseball bat. And the bat knows that. And obviously, the bat also knows its cultural and historic competitors in Edmonton, and it also strikes like any \$80 000 aluminium slugger can: lethally.

It's obvious. The baseball bat knows its purpose—to be an attraction, a replacement for real character (however ugly) and historic value, both attributes proven to draw shoppers, residents, tourists, prostitutes and marijuana smokers. It also knows that it can't hold a candle to real historical attractions. So, it channels its chi, life force, geo-magnetic field or whatever it has into downing its landmark competitors. And until we turn the thing into aluminium siding for underprivileged children, it'll continue to do so.

Dave Alexander's TOP TEN

Things Ozzy Osbourne is probably doing right now

- 10 Working on the scariest way to incorporate sweatpants into his stage costume.
- 9 Building an insane underground railroad for his crazy train.
- 8 Wondering if that poo smell is the dog or himself.
- 7 Screaming at Kelly for bogarting the eye makeup.
- 6 Carefully weighing the pros and cons of Freedom 55.
- 5 Sitting on the toilet, cursing Taco Bell for giving him diarrhea of a madman.
- 4 Crying for Sharon to shovel him out from a collapsed pile of money, again.
- 3 Barking at the moon, that is actually the light in his fridge.
- 2 Lapping out the bugs in the Ozzy Osbourne Speak n' Spell™.
- 1 Mixing medications.

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Anti-smoking bylaws inevitable and right



MATTHEW
BLACK

clean air surely outweighs the right of smokers to fill their lungs, and the lungs of others, with toxic fumes.

And contrary to business owners' claims, the anti-smoking bylaw won't severely damage the business of local bars. Studies done in cities like Ottawa show a decrease in business and increase in the number of service industry layoffs since the ban was imposed in 2001. Yet it's easy to forget that virtually all businesses experienced losses and layoffs since that recession-laden year.

What is key in the implementation of the bylaw is that it encompasses the entire city area. Peripherals such as St. Albert, Leduc, and Strathcona county would also have to implement similar laws if one community isn't to be avoided by smoking patrons. Indeed, the biggest problem with administering the law, particularly in the Maritimes, was how city A would prohibit smoking but city B would not.

In this case, the bars of city A did suffer as citizens of city A would go to city B bars and smoke their lungs out. However, if the ban is universal, such an opportunity disappears.

If anything, Edmonton is behind schedule in passing this law. California, Vancouver, Ottawa and parts of the Maritime provinces have already passed similar laws. Even Dublin, Ireland—a city where smoking is a rampant vice and legal at the age of 16—has implemented a ban. In other words, the opponents to the law are fighting a losing battle; a law will surely be introduced soon if the public continues to demand one, and the public shows no sign of relaxing.

The proposed smoking bylaw is a simple case of majority rule. Since the majority of us don't smoke and business doesn't necessarily have to suffer if a ban is imposed, banning smoking in public areas is the right course of action.

Public opinion, too, can also greatly change over the course of a term in office. Imagine if the Mulroney's Conservatives had received funding

Electoral reform is undercooked



PHIL
HEAD

based on the election prior to 1991?

While corporate and union donations would be capped at \$100, individual donations would be capped at \$10,000. This disparity undermines the entire point of the legislation. How many average citizens are able to pay \$10,000 to a campaign fund? By capping union donations well below that of individuals, Chrétien has destroyed one of the most effective methods of working class lobbying and left wealthy individuals with enormous sway.

In politics, money is power. It isn't what you have to say that's important; it's how much airtime you can buy so you can say it. Campaign finance then, has become of equal importance to the electoral process as voting itself.

Jean Chrétien has recently proposed legislation concerning campaign finance reform as part of his ethics package. Under the proposal, donations from corporations and unions would be limited, and to replace this revenue, political parties would receive funding based on their standings in the previous election. The supposed purpose behind this legislation is to dispel the "perception" that political parties are merely pawns of big business or labour.

This legislation is a step in the right direction, but it doesn't go nearly far enough. The major problem with the proposal is that it allocates funds based upon previous election results. This isn't democratic, as it not only gives an inordinate advantage to those currently in power but it also prevents new parties from being formed to challenge this power, since any new parties couldn't likely obtain comparable financing from corporate or union donations.

Also, seats won in the last election aren't necessarily an indication of public support. Look at parties like the Greens, the Communist Party, or the Marijuana Party; they enjoy some degree of popular support, yet never seem to get elected to the commons.

Public opinion, too, can also greatly change over the course of a term in office. Imagine if the Mulroney's Conservatives had received funding

While corporate and union donations would be capped at \$1000, individual donations would be capped at \$10 000. This disparity undermines the entire point of the legislation.

Some have complained that giving public funds to political parties forces them to contribute to the campaigns of parties they don't support. However, under the current system, donations to political parties are tax deductible; therefore, money is already leaving the public coffers in the form of decreased tax revenue.

The only way to ensure fair democratic process is to take a page from our SU and give all candidates who apply the same amount of funding, regardless of political party. Candidates would ideally be required to first collect a certain number of signatures from voters in their home constituency to ensure public money isn't given to just any wacko off the street, and also to force candidates to interact with the public. Private financial contributions should be disallowed entirely, but contributions of volunteer hours should remain.

Finally, chief returning officers, with

the power to enforce the rules, should be hired to verify signatures and ensure candidates don't spend beyond their limits.

If candidates all have equal access to funding, only then can they be a level playing field, where ideas are more meaningful than the number of billboards a person can purchase.

THE BURLAP SACK

This beating goes out to whoever made the posters advertising Friday's DIAID events around campus. Somehow they managed to generate entire sentences without actually reading the words on the page, because anyone with an IQ above that of a yin-yang-shaped Ikea coffee table would realize the painful hilarity of the following: "2000 children are killed in wars every day. You can help!"

Now, I don't mean to rain on the anti-war parade. But if you want to persuade me to support your cause, you should make sure your poster doesn't make me laugh, point, and tell all my friends that we, too, can slaughter innocent children in cold blood.

Other "good causes" take note: it's hard to convince us oh-so-cynical university students that "we can make a difference" (nuff), so trying not to sound like a clueless idiot (or child-killer) might be a good plan.

MEGHAN WAITT

The Burlap Sack is a semi-regular feature where a person or group who needs to be put in a sack and beaten is ridiculed in print. No sack beatings are actually administered, unless they're really really merited, and even then, we need permission from the Registrar, V.I. Lenin, MGandhi and the ever-brilliant connoisseurs of good ideas, the Right Honourable Sheila Coppins.

Psst...

It may be **nearing** the end of the year, and the **Gateway** may not be on your mind, but it's never too late to shoot an idea at **Managing Editor Raymond Biesinger**. That's what we'd suggest to you if you like the idea of around **600 words** grouped together in the form of an **"Opinion piece."**

Well, get on it!

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SIDETRACKED BY SWEET, SOULFUL MUSIC Songstress Emm Gryner inspired a crowded Sidetrack Café when she opened for Holly McNarland last Wednesday night.

KATE ROSSITER

THE DOWNFALL OF WESTERN CIVILIZATION

It's no secret that George W Bush has, since he came to power a few years back, been a willful and fairly constant contributor to the Downfall of Western Civilization. What could this possible have to do with the entertainment industry?

Three words: the Dixie Chicks.

Earlier this week, Natalie Maines of the Chicks stated, before a London audience that she was ashamed of the US president. The result of her statement has been swift and widespread; already, listeners of a Nashville radio station have phoned in and demanded that other listeners and radio stations boycott the Dixie Chicks' music.

Now forget for a moment your opinions of war in the Middle East. For our purposes, those are irrelevant. Think of censorship instead. It's one thing to disagree with someone's message, but it's a completely different thing to actively encourage censorship. If you disagree with someone's point of view, you're welcome to not listen to them. But musicians, and indeed other artists, earn their living from not only their medium but their messages as well.

In a nation where the word freedom is so readily tossed around, it's frustrating to see how selective the application of that freedom is. As long as you choose to speak in favour of the government, you're free to do as you wish. Freedom is about being able to say what you want without fear of reprisal. Sadly, this sort of freedom has gone the way of the Great Auk.

Unique ideas and messages are what set great artists apart from the cliché nonsense on the airwaves. Let's not allow knee-jerk reactions to govern what sort of music we listen to.

ADAM ROZENHART

The Downfall of Western Civilization is a semi-regular feature where we tell you what on earth is wrong with the entertainment industry. Sure, there are a lot of things wrong, but some things chap our hides. DWG relieves the chapping.

An unexpected lack of action

The Unexpected Man

Directed by John Hudson
Starring John Sproule and Coralie Cairns
Varscona Theatre
13–30 March

BEQUIE LAKE
Arts & Entertainment Writer

Mr Parsky, the misanthropic novelist in Yasmina Reza's two-hander *The Unexpected Man*, posits that the touch of a great poet is to make a moment into eternity. By this standard, Reza has created a masterpiece, although I'm not entirely sure it's because she's a poet.

The play, presented as a series of monologues, lacks most of the elements that make live theatre dynamic and exciting—say, action or conflict—so there were several moments of eternity at opening night of Shadow Theatre's production in which the audience seemed more interested in unwrapping assorted mints than watching the play.

The monologues—middle-aged angst about wasted lives, loneliness and indigestion—are inspired by a surprising coincidence. A misanthropic old author meets a younger woman on the train, who is reading, of all things, his most recent book (entitled, not-so-surprisingly, *The Unexpected Man*). It is, as Mr Parsky remarks with an authorial wink, a wonderful premise for a short story; so why has Reza written a full-length play?

The effect of this premise is necessarily contrived and somewhat formulaic. The woman seems written entirely as a foil to the aging writer. Where he is misanthropic, she is charming; where he is cynical, she is hopeful; yet another pairing of the male genius and the female muse (when, for God's sake, will someone write a story about a tormented woman genius, and the charming young man who catches her eye?).

Paint-by-numbers premise aside, the play is beautifully written, and there is no shortage of subtly charming moments. Most are due to the



PHILIP HEAD

AN UNEXPECTED MEETING Marthe runs in to her favourite writer in *The Unexpected Man*.

high quality of the production: John Hudson's direction is quick and energetic, and exploits irony from the circumstances to the maximum. The acting is lovely; John Sproule (Parsky) and Coralie Cairns (Marthe) are professionals in the truest sense of the word: they have the polish, timing and sophistication of many years on the stage. The pair has worked together in many previous Shadow shows (including their Sterling-nominated *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?*), and their chemistry as actors shines on stage.

Cindi Zuby's set and David Belle's lights seem to be attempts to compensate in spectacle for what the play lacks in action. They were, with the

exception of some rather unfortunate foot-lighting, mostly successful. Mirrors (serving double as the train's windows) were especially effective in adding some much-needed depth to the stage.

The skilled production didn't quite redeem the play's fault, however. After all, as Parsky points out in one of the play's less profound moments, we can "only ever do what we are capable of doing." Nevertheless, they make a Herculean effort, and if bourgeois European theatre is your thing, you'll probably have a grand time. Hey, maybe if you ask me in 30 years, the play will resonate deeply with my own middle-aged angst and unfortunate adventures with laxatives.

David Cronenberg dishes on *Spider*

DAN VERBIN
Arts Bureau Chief

TORONTO (CUP) — Ralph Fiennes doesn't talk very much in director David Cronenberg's new film, *Spider*. In fact, he mumbles inaudibly under his breath for most of the movie and scribbles incomprehensibly from right to left in a tattered journal while chain-smoking hand-rolled cigarettes—all of which makes perfect sense when you consider that Fiennes' character is a mentally-ill man who is prematurely released from psychiatric care.

"They know if you're a serious director, you want to be involved in the casting. You don't want people to be saying you have to do this with Ralph Fiennes. You want to be able to say, 'I actually think I would rather have Sly Stallone.' So, it would have made it a very different movie. Although, being non-verbal would probably work for him."

DAVID CRONENBERG,
DIRECTOR OF *SPIDER*

One would rightly assume that directing an actor, no matter how talented, in a non-speaking role would be a creative hindrance. However, as Cronenberg tells it, the fact that *Spider* barely utters a word never really

entered the equation.

The acclaimed Canadian filmmaker, well-known since the mid-'70s for exploring the darker side of the human psyche in films such as *The Fly*, *Naked Lunch* and *Crash*, talks with a slow, deliberate confidence, as if he were actively directing every word coming out of his mouth.

"For [Fiennes], too, someone asked him if it was a burden to play a role with no dialogue and he said, 'No, it was a relief.' Even though the language *Spider* speaks in this movie is primarily body language, for an actor like Fiennes, as experienced as he is, that's not the challenge. The challenge is to find the character and to live with the details and the subtlety of the character."

Spider—shot for \$8 million in London and Toronto—harnesses Cronenberg's unique flair for making the unusual downright extraordinary. The film follows *Spider*, who, after spending most of his life as an asylum-bound schizophrenic, is released to an East End London halfway house, run with an iron fist by Mrs. Wilkinson (Lynn Redgrave). As he walks through the streets near his new lodgings, the East London of his traumatic childhood begins to blend into his present surroundings as a series of fragmented flashbacks.

As *Spider* attempts to get used to the barely adequate facilities, he begins to relive the memory of witnessing, as a 10-year-old, his mother (Miranda Richardson) being murdered by his father (Gabriel Byrne).

Spider spirals deeper and deeper into a schizophrenic fog, and becomes tangled in the webs of his past, unable to crawl his way back to solid ground, or to recall memories from fake ones.

[*Spider* is unable to handle the] things that a normal child would be able to handle reasonably well—becoming aware of his parents' sex-



SETTING THE STAGE Director David Cronenberg describes the staging of a scene from *Spider* to actor Ralph Fiennes.

uality and having to understand his own sexuality in relationship to that," says Cronenberg. "Children deal with that, they're not crazy, they don't go schizophrenic, they don't have to be put into an asylum. So, why *Spider*? The answer could be... he was always damaged somehow."

After reading the script, Cronenberg was immediately interested in the film.

"It was odd, too, because the script came with a letter that said Ralph Fiennes wanted to play the role, and that's rare," he says. "Normally you just get a script and they say, 'Do you want to direct it?' and it doesn't say, 'And by the way Sly Stallone is gonna play the leading role.' They know if you're a serious director, you want to be involved in the casting. You don't want people to be saying you have

to do this with Ralph Fiennes. You want to be able to say, 'I actually think I would rather have Sly Stallone.' So, it would have made it a very different movie. Although, being non-verbal would probably work for him."

Though Fiennes is phenomenal as *Spider*, pulling off the role with rare intensity and sensitivity, if life had played out differently, the movie might never have been made and the Cronenberg we all know might never have existed.

"I really feel that if I had moved to Hollywood, as I almost felt I had to do 30 years ago when there was no film industry here and it was very hard to get a movie made, I don't think I would have been as interesting a filmmaker as I am. I would have been much more of an ordinary Hollywood director, because when you're in Hollywood,

it's like a very dense little planet with a huge gravitational pull and it's very hard to not do what everybody's doing because it's everywhere."

Though he says Canadian directors do not always get their dues in this country, they certainly do in the rest of the world.

"One of the weird things we do here is we devalue ourselves a little too easily. It's very Canadian to do that. But, when they say, there's Atom Egoyan and David Cronenberg—Canadian directors—at Cannes, that gets respect. People are interested to see what we're doing because they know we don't make standard sort of Hollywood films."

Canadian filmmakers should definitely follow Cronenberg's example; make great, homegrown movies, and don't be apologetically Canadian.

CULTURA OBSCURA



Blanche Knott's
Truly Tasteless Jokes V

PHILIP HEAD
Arts & Entertainment Writer

Taking advantage of the brief respite between the censorship of the first half of the twentieth century and the PC movement of the 1990s, *Truly Tasteless Jokes V* is guaranteed to offend anyone by the time they get to the first punch-line. Such taboos as racism, sexism, and gay bashing are celebrated with gusto; making fun of paraplegics and killing babies is what passes for humour in this book. I hate to think of what might be included in the first four volumes, and pray there are no others in the series.

An example of the poorest in taste: "What's red and dances? A baby on a burner."

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Alberta LEARNING



Jesse Malin

The Fine Art of Self Destruction
Artemis Records
www.jessemalin.com

MICHAEL FOWLIE
Arts & Entertainment Writer

Sometimes, success is less a case of what you know than it is about who you know.

I only found this record because that folk-rock wunderkind Ryan Adams produced it; otherwise, I would have never heard the aptly titled *The Fine Art of Self Destruction* from amazing up-and-comer Jesse Malin.

Following in the footsteps of Adams' record *Gold*, Malin rambles through melancholy folk ballads and '70s groove rockers that are forever lost in images of New York, late bar nights,

and lost loves.

With a voice drenched by years of whiskey and cigarettes, Malin settles on the bar stool and tells of a troubadour still trying to find his feet after hard times. Songs like the hauntingly beautiful "Cigarettes and Violets" and the heartbreak tale of "Brooklyn" show musical depth without straying too far from Adams' tambourine-inspired choruses and heart-on-sleeve lyrics.

However, *The Fine Art of Self Destruction* raises the question of Adams' influence: perhaps Malin is this good by himself, but maybe it's all about who he knows.



Fischerspooner

#1
Capitol/EMI
www.fischerspooner.com

ANTHONY EASTON
Arts & Entertainment Writer

Electroclash is the black tar heroin of pop, and Fischerspooner are dealers hanging around schoolyards giving away the first taste gratis.

Obsessed with their own artifice, this is music for the night out and the morning after, as well as the soundtrack to washroom sex and k-holes and useful for those who live viciously through people who do that sort of thing.

They add a bonus DVD with video—some stage shows so elaborate, they come with wardrobe and makeup credits. This is camp and pop as lifestyle, like what punk is to those with mohawks and directions to the next ball show.

With a new major label, write-ups in all the magazines and a nationwide tour, expect this lifestyle to spread far and wide.



Jeffrey Gaines

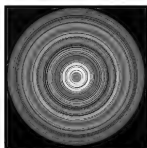
Toward the Sun
Artemis Records
www.jeffreygaines.com

SWEETCHEYANNE
Arts & Entertainment Writer

Toward the Sun, the fifth full-length release from Jeffrey Gaines, is proof why you should never believe the rock critics. Proclaimed by some of the largest publications in America as being an artist of underrated genius, Gaines is far from it.

An essentially indistinguishable husky-man voice laments painfully obvious lyrics throughout the entire album. There are no gems, not even in the melody. One cannot help but think of early '90s Canadian rock ballads while digesting the musical stylings of Gaines.

Add all this to very bad packaging and the result is rather unromantic. That is, unless you're a punk wearing tight leather pants, looking to show an innocent boy a good time.



The Music

Self-titled
Capitol
www.themusicuk.com

JAMES ROSSITER
Arts & Entertainment Writer

The Music, as they're assertively known, are one of the most electrifying new bands to emerge from the UK in the last few years. With influences ranging from Led Zeppelin and Jane's Addiction (singer Robert Harvey's voice) to the Verve and the Stone Roses (the guitars, the bass), this is riff-rock meets northern soul at its best.

Tracks such as "Human" and "Turn Out The Light" start as slow ballads that gradually transform into psychedelic chaos, while others ("The Truth Is No Words" and "Float") chase a heavy groove right from the get-go.

The band isn't afraid to indulge in a few psychedelic jams, but the songs never lose their focus. This self-titled debut showcases an incredible amount of raw energy.

FREE STUFF

In Stephen King's latest screen terror, *Dreamcatcher*, four friends with uncanny powers meet together in a cabin in the wilderness, rehashing old memories, telling stories, and enjoying themselves. However, when a lost hunter arrives at the cabin, he brings with him a blizzard and unspeakable horror that the four friends must now confront.

We'd love to send you to the preview screening of *Dreamcatcher*. All

you need to do is come up to 3:04 SUB and tell the Entertainment Editor a scary story—one that will make his skin crawl. If your story is deemed scary enough, you and a guest will be sent to SilverCity on Wednesday, 19 March at 7pm.

Go on: scare me.

Opens in theatres on Friday, 21 March

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howyouaim.intemperate.com

ANDREW "DR RAGE" HIEW
Arts & Entertainment Writer

Here's a simple and maddeningly addictive Flash game that tests your aim, after having a few pints of beer. Replete with disturbingly realistic sound effects, the game is relatively easy at first but ends up pretty much impossible by your fourth pint.

As an added bonus, the makers of the bizarre game are giving away a night on the town to the person (and three of his/her friends) with the highest score. The current high score is 156,001, so start practicing if you want a shot at the prize.

What's the catch? The "town" the prize is awarded in is London, England, and transportation there isn't included.

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Alberta

SPORTS

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WEEKEND SCORES

Basketball CIS national championships
14 March Bears 66, St. Mary's 59
15 March Bears 55, Guelph 60*

*Alberta lost their semifinal match so did not advance to the medal round.

Tennis NAAIA competition*
*Alberta players bolded

15 March
Doubles
Komar, Kerr def. Schmidt, Christie (7-6, 6-4)
Consentino, Ta def. Peglau, Au (0-6, 5-7)
UWO def. Pukowicz, Hinds (6-7, 6-7)
Singles
Schmidt def. Komar (6-2, 7-5)
Consentino def. Peglau (7-6, 6-3)
Ta def. Kerr (6-4, 6-3)
Christie def. Au (4-6, 6-4)
Weinberg def. Pukowicz (6-3, 0-6, 4-6)
Hinds def. Weisenberg (6-2, 7-6)

Final: Western 7, Alberta 2

Track and Field CIS national championships

TOP ALBERTA FINISHERS

Elaine Hua, 4th, 60m (7.68)
Carrish Bourne, 4th, 600m (1:33.30)
Michelle Clarke, 3rd, 3000m (10:26.37)
Sue Kupper, 7th, 60m hurdles (8.98)
Pandas, 3rd, 4x200m relay (1:42.70)
Brynn Anderson, 5th, pole vault (3.40m)
Melissa These, 7th, shot put (12.17m)
Chantal Bourque, 8th, shot put (12.07m)
Melissa These, 5th, weight throw (15.14m)
Brian Stewart, 6th, 1000m (2:31.17)
Rob Nissen, 6th, 3000m (8:25.43)
Jesse Smith, 2nd, 60m hurdles (8.22)
Bears, 5th, 4x200m relay (1:30.88)
Bears, 4th, 4x400m relay (3:22.88)
Bears, 4th, 4x800m relay (7:49.37)
Jamie Johnson, 3rd, pole vault (4.85m)
Jesse Smith, 6th, long jump (6.86m)
Grant Chapman, 4th, shot put (15.71m)
Grant Chapman, 4th, weight throw (17.50m)
Jesse Smith, 3rd, pentathlon (3665)

ATHLETIC NOTES

Basketball

Looking for their second national title in three years, the Golden Bears fell five points short against the Guelph Gryphons in the CIS championship semifinal. The Bears put forth a noble effort over the weekend, defeating the hosting Saint Mary's Huskies in their opening game of the tournament, 66-59.



FILE PHOTO: KEVIN LU

Track and Field

The Pandas and the Bears finished their year with 9th and 6th place showings this past weekend at the CIS finals in Windsor. The highlights from the weekend was the Pandas' 4x2000 relay team's third-place final finish, and Golden Bear Jesse Smith (60m hurdles) and Jamie Johnson (pole vault) finishing second and third in their respective events.



Mike Melnychuk (right) led the Bears through Saturday's quarterfinal against St. Mary's (66-59), but Alberta fell short defending their national title. JACQUES KRZEPKOWSKI/THE CHARLATAN

Bears clawed from basketball nationals in semifinal round

The seventh-seeded Guelph Gryphons upset the Bears 60-55; the Gryphons went on to lose the gold medal match to the Carleton Ravens 57-54. It was the Ravens' first CIS gold in any sport.

SARAH CONCHIE
The Ubyssy

A small girl leans over the metal railing in the giant Metro Centre in downtown Halifax, asking eagerly for an autograph. Alberta point guard Phil Scherer, who limped from the court minutes earlier after a 60-55 loss to the Guelph Gryphons, gracefully smiles and signs his name, thrilling the young fan before doing one last interview.

"There's no tears of pain right now," he says, still visibly upset over the Golden Bears' semifinal defeat at the hands of an on-fire Guelph squad. "I'm just so hurt emotionally because we just worked so hard all year, and you don't want to be in our shoes right now."

Scherer, a runner-up for the CIS player of the year award, is the only starter from last year's gold medal Bear squad to make the trip back to Halifax for the CIS national championships. And while the status of Scherer's ankle—he tore two ligaments at the Canada West tournament—grabbed headlines and laced many conversations

in the media room, guard Mike Melnychuk quietly led Alberta past the Atlantic favourite, the Saint Mary's Huskies, into the semifinal round on Saturday.

"We could have won that ball game, but you know, that's life—you don't always win."

DON HORWOOD
HEAD COACH, BEARS BASKETBALL

After an emotional victory over the hometown Huskies, the Bears couldn't quite dampen Guelph enthusiasm the next day, and even Melnychuk's 27 points didn't slow down the seventh-seeded Gryphons.

Suffering the same fate as the Canada West Champions, the UBC Thunderbirds, Alberta missed some key foul shots in the final minutes of the game, giving Guelph the ticket to the final

round.

"I don't know if it was a surprise," said Melnychuk afterwards. "It was certainly a let-down."

Alberta head coach Don Horwood was pragmatic (and quotable) as ever afterwards. He seemed proud of this year's younger Bear team, and after winning last year's title, Horwood was relatively relaxed about leaving Halifax without a medal.

"We know we could have won that ball game, but you know, that's life—you don't always win."

"Life" seemed rather painful for the Bears after that Saturday afternoon game, but Scherer's tears and Melnychuk's silence soon faded as Halifax's other off-court attractions beckoned.

And although Scherer is handing in his numbers this year and finally giving that ankle a rest, the remaining team will likely be back in the eastern city next season—happily signing autographs and battling for a second national title in three years.

Lukewarm wrap-up for track and field squads

DEREK FOREAL
Sports Writer

Ending a three-year streak, the Bears track and field team was unable to medal as a squad at this year's CIS championships.

This weekend in Windsor, Ontario, the Bears and Pandas were making their first appearance in the finals under first-year head coach Jim Slepica, and were able to come away with sixth- and

ninth-place finishes respectively.

The Bears earned 30 points over the weekend, putting them five points short of Guelph's bronze medal effort. The hosting men's team from Windsor took gold with 61 points, while their women's team wasn't as successful.

The Bears' top performers on the weekend were Jesse Smith, who earned silver in the 60m hurdles with a time of 8.22 seconds, and pole vaulter Jamie Johnson, who placed second with a

vault of 4.85m.

The Pandas improved three positions over last year's finish, tying for ninth overall. The best performance of the Pandas' weekend was a bronze medal in the 4x200m relay. The team went into the final heat with a first place seeding after a preliminary heat.

The women's gold was secured by the Saskatchewan Huskies, who finished the weekend with 71 points.



Through and through, hockey Pandas forward Taryn Barry is an athlete—no matter the season.

LAUREN JENNINGS

Soccer to skates: a Taryn Barry bio

ADAM ROZENHART
Entertainment Editor

Pandas hockey forward Taryn Barry didn't exactly get into sports by accident; her parents pushed her into it.

"I really had no choice," she says. "And then I decided I liked it."

Barry, a 19-year-old first-year physical education student, has been involved in sports all her life. From basketball to soccer and golf, she's done it all. In high school, she was enrolled at the St. Francis Xavier Soccer Academy, an endeavour that took up a great deal of her time.

"I was bombarded with soccer for about three years. It was an unreal experience, but at the same time I was like, 'OK, this is a lot of soccer. I need to move on with my life.'"

The move to university forced Barry to choose between soccer and hockey. While she could potentially have done both sports at the U of A, she felt she would have ended up short-changing one of the teams.

"I didn't want to be on the hockey team and feel like I wasn't giving it my all," she says.

The decision led Barry to Pandas hockey, and although she has thought

about quitting before, she couldn't live her life without being involved in sports.

"Sport is so up and down. Sometimes it's unreal, and sometimes it has its low points," she notes. "I've had many times where I've wanted to quit, but of course I don't."

"My heart broke when they scored that goal in the last 18 seconds. I couldn't even imagine losing it in overtime."

HOCKEY PANDA TARYN BARRY, ON THE GOAL THAT TIED UP THE GOLD MEDAL MATCH

The rollercoaster ride of sports was apparent in the Pandas' CIS final against the University of Toronto Varsity Blues. The Pandas went into the third period of the final with a one-goal lead, but the Blues tied up the game at the very end of the period.

"My heart broke when they scored that goal in the last 18 seconds. I couldn't even imagine losing it in over-

time," Barry says.

Fortunately, the Pandas pulled out a win with an overtime marker by Taryn Bjeld and took home the gold. Barry suggests the team's camaraderie, on and off the ice, had a lot to do with the Pandas' ability to take home the championship for the second year in a row.

"We're so close. Everyone is just awesome," she says. "It's the funnest group of people I've ever been with."

With Barry's dedication to hockey this year, she's found she has a lot more time to herself. So, what does she do now that she has time to herself?

"I study a lot," she laughs and adds that she tries as much as possible to spend time with friends outside of hockey.

Beyond the scope of varsity sports, however, Barry notes that her future is uncertain. She's playing at a level she's comfortable with and isn't sure how far she wants to go with hockey.

Whichever direction she chooses, though, Barry is thankful that her parents' prodding got her where she is today. With the Pandas hockey season over, she can focus on other things.

"[Like] homework! Exactly! And I really study hard."

Top ten athletes... in Hollywood film

JOEL CHURCH
Sports Writer

10 Gheorghe Muresan in *My Giant* — The role of Max Zambfirescu was rumoured to be typeset for André "The Giant" Roussimoff, who passed away before the movie was made. They could have achieved the same entertainment value by just shooting the replacement Gheorghe standing next to Billy Crystal for 90 minutes.

9 Roger Clemens in *Kingpin* — Instead of playing an opposing pitcher in the movie *Cobb*, the "Rocket" takes on the role of "Skidmark," the bully, whose only real line in this comedy was, "Ain't nobody be messin' with my squirrel!"

8 Dennis Rodman in *Double Team* — The Worm plus Van Damme. Yes, they actually did sink that low.

7 Jim Brown in *Mars Attacks!* — Playing boxer/greeter Byron Williams at a casino, he showed his badass fearless self punching aliens in the face!

6 Geena Davis in *Stuart Little 2* — Playing Mom, or Mrs Little, this

would be her first actor/athlete film as she took up archery two years ago, and is now ranked in the top 25 in North America. The 6'0" actress is also a member of MENSA, which shows that doing this movie was the one thing that kept her from being the perfect human being.

5 With Chamberlain in *Conan the Destroyer* — He holds the record for points in a single NBA game with 100 and claimed to have slept with over 20 000 women in his book. Playing Bombata in this Conan film obviously improved his chances with the ladies more than just being a 7'1" NBA all-star ever could have.

4 Cam Neely in *Dumb and Dumber* — Playing Sea Bass in this comedy was a great way for this former Bruin and Canuck to break into acting. Ordering boormakers, burger horking, and wearing a "Wine Me Dine Me, 69 Me" make this role a classic.

3 Alex Karras in *Blazing Saddles* — This former Detroit Lions pro-bowler made a memorable performance as Mongo in this classic Mel Brooks film. He was able to show his acting ability by punching out a horse,

riding a bull into town, and by punching an infamous camp-fire scene.

2 Brian Bosworth in *Black Out*, aka *Midnight Heat*, aka *AKA* — Three different titles, a former football star playing a "mild-mannered" barber who gets amnesia who solves his wife's murder by piecing his memory together... pure gold.



FIRESTORM There he is—the venerable Mr Long. And fire, of course.

1 Howie Long in *Firestorm* — As fireman Jesse Graves, former Raider Howie has to "fight fire with fire". He saves the forest and an ornithologist from a convicted killer and his crew of criminals posing as Canadian firefighters. Howie throws a chainsaw over his shoulder at the bad guys in their truck while riding a motorcycle. Need I say more?

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Black and white structures of age-old racism prevail in North America

MONTREAL (CUP) — People of colour in North America know justice is all too often the domain of white male capitalists.

In February 1999, Amadou Diallo was shot 41 times by four white policemen in an isolated area of the city of New York. The policemen looking for a suspect confirmed 41 armed, and not a rape suspect. His brutal death in the past struggle for civil rights in America only proved that the struggle is far from over.

Though the case was black and white, the four policemen were bound not guilty of murder charges. Diallo's case is not an isolated one. The reality is that a legal system that some claim is inherently prejudiced is a sign of how far we have come since 1969.

Amnesty International linked application of the death penalty in the United States to race and ethnicity in its comprehensive report "Killing With Prejudice: Race and the Death Penalty in the US". The report revealed that people of colour are subjected to greater chances of imprisonment and longer sentences than

white people convicted of the same crimes. A chilling pattern of death sentences for the murder of a person with white skin was also revealed.

Though there is no incidence of homicide to death by 50 per cent, the rate of death by 50 per cent was 1977 and 1988 81.8 per cent were sentenced for the murder of a white person. The American Civil Liberties Union carried out since 1977, the 232 executions reported out since 1977, one was for the murder of a black person. And a recent report of the President's advisory board stated, "Race and ethnicity still have profound impacts on the extent to which a person is fully included in American society and provided the equal protection promised to all Americans."

Whether the injustice of prejudice is occurring in our own country or in another, it is important for everyone to take notice and not let the stories of the unfairly convicted go unheard. "As Canadians, our lives are deeply entwined with those of our neighbours to the south," Amnesty International writes. "We also have a special obligation to speak out. We also have a political obligation to make our voices heard when others are silenced."

Political Prisoners On Death Row

While on death row, Mumia Abu-Jamal wrote, "In cases decided every day across America, the theory of colour-blindness is said to govern the judicial process, the notion that the mere mention of race is somehow racist. How people are treated in court, how they are charged and how they are sentenced is a direct reflection of what race they are assigned by the physiognomy presented to the world. We are blind to everything but colour."

A common tactic when silencing critics is to incriminate them, break their spirit in prison and divide the time and resources of their constituencies in fighting inherently flawed and expensive court battles. Social activist and journalist Mumia Abu-Jamal had been on death row since 1982. Known as the "voice of the voiceless," Mumia is one of the world's most famous political prisoners. He has been in solitary confinement and appeals process, and his case has become an international outrage.

In 1981, Mumia Abu-Jamal was arrested for murder in Philadelphia. He was allegedly trying to stop a policeman from beating his brother, Mumia was shot by the policeman. The policeman was also shot and killed, and witnesses saw two men running from the scene. However, it was Mumia's brother prior to being taken to the hospital that was shot and killed. Mumia was charged with murder. During the trial, it is hypothesized that false statements were used, evidence was withheld and a purging process ensured people of colour were kept off a jury that was later told that Mumia was a "dangerous black revolutionary."

Mumia was a vocal critic of racial profiling and police brutality, as well as a member of the Black Panther Party. In addition to his political activities, Mumia offered free breakfast programs for children, set up free health clinics throughout the United States and advocated African-Americans defend themselves against the racist establishment.

Mumia wrote the widely read and while in 23-hour solitary confinement,



translated book *Live From Death Row* and was subsequently put into punitive detention for the written work. In December 2002, his death sentence was thrown out, though the conviction was upheld.

Ward Churchill, a counter intelligence program used by the FBI that was directed at the Black Panther Party, was also on the case at Mumia's trial. Churchill, an Aboriginal American, said of Mumia's case: "It is unquestionable that from a very early age, Mumia Abu-Jamal was specifically targeted for neutralization by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Philadelphia Police, and that the pattern of police activity evident in that targeting was continued, as it was in a number of comparable cases, so long as he maintained political activity, and his case was used to back up the racist dogma framed for the crime. This is a question of motivation. There's always a question of motivation. Why would the state falsify the record to convict an otherwise innocent individual, put him in prison for a crime he did not commit?"

Still, Mumia remains in prison today. Even after US district judge William Yohn cited problems with the jury charge and verdict on the charges that Mumia's request for a new trial had been denied.

The Silencing of Community leaders

The Prophet Muhammad said, "The greatest jihad is to speak the word of truth to a tyrant." Part of challenging the racist status quo begins in demonstration

against the discriminatory acts and existing injustices. One way some have tried to break the shackles of dependency and violence has been to take matters of protecting their own hands.

Hubert Rap Brown's case is one testimony of this reality. Brown embraced Islam while in prison and changed his name to Iman and adopted Al-Anin as it meant "the truthful." In 1976, he established the Community Mosque of Atlanta. Under his leadership, his community became self-sustaining and independent, dealing with the police and the legal system with a prohibition in a program similar to what was being conducted in Brooklyn. Iman Al-Anin paroled and protected his neighbourhood, as the police would not respond to the rampant crime. To his neighbours, he was a trustworthy and compassionate man.

Al-Anin is currently in prison, convicted of killing a white police officer. To many, it is the evidence of his conviction that he is the evidence of his conviction. In the case and another man, Otis Jackson, has confessed to the crime. In his book *Revolution By The Book: The Rap Is Live*, Iman writes, "The struggle is an ongoing process—when the first slave rebelled against being a slave, he gave an alternative to slavery that has been built upon until now. That's struggle; and there have been many movements in the struggle—the abolitionist movement, the civil rights movement, the gay rights movement, but the struggle still goes on."

The criminalization of dissent defends prevailing racism. Character assassinations and imprisonment of community leaders who seek social justice for their communities, and the imperialist power politics in the legal system, are tools of maintaining inequality and injustice. The end of racism is the solution to the colour-coded erosion of the justice system.

As the "war on drugs" changes to the "war on terrorism," what has not changed is the identity of the struggle and the value of speaking truth to power.

Written by Sobia Virk of the Link
Photos by Zac Burt

"We also have a special obligation to speak out. We also have the potential to make our voices heard when others are silenced."

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

"Race and ethnicity still have profound impacts on the extent to which a person is fully included in American society and provided the equal protection promised to all Americans."

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The 2003 Gateway Survey

Drop completed surveys at Info booths in HUB, SUB, or CAB by 12:00 pm, March 21 for your chance to win!

The Gateway Survey

This survey is being conducted on behalf of The Gateway, who are interested in better understanding who their readers are. The information you provide will help The Gateway target advertisers that would be of greater interest to its readers. Anonymity is guaranteed. We appreciate your input.

1. How often do you read The Gateway:

☐ Never ☐ Less than once a month ☐ Monthly ☐ Weekly

2. With 1 being the most important to you, rank the sections of the Gateway from 1 to 7:

_____ Arts and Entertainment _____ Features _____ Sports
_____ Classifieds _____ News _____
_____ Comics _____ Opinions _____

3. On average, how long do you spend reading each section of the Gateway (in minutes)?

_____ Arts and Entertainment _____ Features _____ Sports
_____ Classifieds _____ News _____
_____ Comics _____ Opinions _____

4. How informative do you find the advertising in The Gateway?

1 Very informative 2 Neutral 3 Not informative at all

5. Has an ad in The Gateway ever led you to purchase or use a product or service? Yes / No

i. In the last month? Yes / No
ii. In the last 3 months? Yes / No

6. How easy is it easy to find The Gateway's distribution points?

1 Very Easy 2 Neutral 3 Very Hard 5

7. Would you be more likely to read The Gateway if there were more distribution points around campus? Yes / No

8. During the school year, what is your main source of income?

☐ Summer employment ☐ Student loans ☐ Part-time job
Other: _____

Legend

1-awful / I hated it / not at all
2-poor / I was not impressed
3-decent / I guess so / occasionally
4-good / I was impressed
5-fantastic / I loved it / all of the time

General

Overall, how would you rate this year's Gateway? 1 2 3 4 5

What do you look for in a campus newspaper?

What would you like to see more of at the Gateway?

Which section of the paper do you read the most?

• News • Opinion • Sports • A&E • Features
Other: _____

What do you like best about the Gateway?

• Information • Humour • Design • Photos • Entertainment Value
Other: _____

What would you improve about the paper (i.e. what aren't we doing that we should be)?

• Information • Humour • Design • Photos • Entertainment Value
Other: _____

What is the most memorable article you read in the Gateway this year? Photo you looked at? Any particular reason why?

What is the worst article you read in the Gateway this year? Photo you looked at? Any particular reason why?

Have you ever thought about volunteering for the Gateway? Why or why not? Who are your favorite Gateway writers?

• Overall • News • Opinion
• Sports • A&E • Features

News

How informative do you find the news section? 1 2 3 4 5

What type of News articles do you like the most?

• Campus News • Local News • National News briefs
• Profile Profiles • Stories

Do you find the News section interesting?

9. What do you enjoy doing in your spare time? (Check all that apply)

☐ Arts/Craft ☐ Social Drinking
☐ Attending Sporting Events ☐ Shopping
☐ Playing Sports ☐ Visiting with Friends
☐ Reading/Writing ☐ Watching Movies
☐ Watching Television ☐ Working Out
☐ Yoga ☐ Other: _____

10. Approximately how much do you spend per month on the activities listed above?

☐ \$0 - 99 ☐ \$100 - 199 ☐ \$200 - 299 ☐ \$300 - 399 ☐ \$400+

11. In a typical month, which shopping centers do you shop at? (Answer all that apply)

☐ City Center ☐ Londonderry ☐ West Edmonton Mall
☐ Jasper Avenue ☐ Whyte Avenue ☐ Southgate
☐ Kingsway ☐ South Edmonton Common
Other: _____

12. In a typical month, what do you purchase? (Check all that apply)

☐ Alcohol ☐ Concert Tickets ☐ Personal Health Care Supplies
☐ Clothes ☐ Fast Food ☐ Sporting Event Tickets
☐ Cosmetics ☐ Movie Tickets/Movies ☐ Other: _____

13. Approximately how much do you spend per month on the activities listed above?

☐ \$0 - 99 ☐ \$100 - 199 ☐ \$200 - 299 ☐ \$300 - 399 ☐ \$400+

14. Where do you live?

☐ At home (with family) ☐ On campus ☐ Off campus

15. How old are you?

☐ < 18 ☐ 18 - 20 ☐ 21 - 23 ☐ 24 - 26 ☐ 27+

16. Are you: Male / Female

*15. E-mail address:

*Optional - e-mail addresses will only be used to contact prize winners. Prizes consist of: monthly bus passes, symphony tickets, and most! You may drop the survey off at either the HUB, SUB, or CAB Information Booth.

Opinion

How would you rate this year's Opinion section? 1 2 3 4 5

How did you like the editorial cartoons? 1 2 3 4 5

What type of Opinion articles do you like the most?

a) Political commentary 1 2 3 4 5
b) Humour 1 2 3 4 5
c) Student life 1 2 3 4 5
d) Desperate cries for attention? 1 2 3 4 5

To what extent did the Opinion section provoke thought? Discussion? 1 2 3 4 5

A&E

How would you rate the A&E section this year? 1 2 3 4 5

What type of A&E articles do you like the most?

• Film • Music • CD reviews • Site Unseen / Cultura Obscura
• Visual Arts • Theatre

Do you prefer reviews or previews?

Do you rely on the Gateway for event information? 1 2 3 4 5

Sports

How would you rate the sports section this year? 1 2 3 4 5

Did you find the coverage balanced? 1 2 3 4 5

How often do you attend campus sporting events? 1 2 3 4 5

Features

Rate the following features from one to ten (one being best, ten being worst)

a) Welcome to U of A feature ☐
b) The Gateway (December joke issue) ☐
c) Purity test ☐
d) Hack-o-rama ☐

What sort of Features would you like to see more of?

Photo

Did you like the photos in the paper this year? 1 2 3 4 5

Were there enough photos this year? 1 2 3 4 5

Would you like to see more photo features? 1 2 3 4 5

Design

Do you like the design of the newspaper? 1 2 3 4 5

Does the look of the paper make you pick it up? 1 2 3 4 5

Comics

Rate the Comics page from best to worst (1 worst, 5 best) 1 2 3 4 5

Rate the following comics:

☐ Deathworld ☐ Computer Blues ☐ Space Cat ☐ Varsity Happenings
☐ Blackout ☐ Laser Comics 2020 ☐ Campus Pals
☐ Carcinoma ☐ Heyben ☐ Brooklyn & Polar
☐ Feelings ☐ Other ☐ Anna

Other general comments:

THE GATEWAY



CLASSIFIEDS

To place a classified ad, please call
Information Services at 492-4212

FOR RENT

Apartment for rent, available now. Watersedge, walk to campus and Whyte Ave. Two bedrooms, two baths. Heat, water and parking included. River view. \$900. Call Val 989-9996 or 919-8997.

1 May - 31 August, 2 bedrooms in a brand new 5 bedroom/3 bathroom house, 5 minute walk to U of A. \$300/month plus shared utilities. Parking included. Call Margy 435-3347.

WANTED

Female roommate, \$275/month. Utilities included May-Aug. Sept-Dec 5 min walk to University. 231-7051.

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EMPLOYMENT - FULL TIME

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Graduating? Go Teach English! Your degree is your passport to the world. Pay off loans, make a difference, build your resume. Free information sessions, 24 March, SUB 4-02. www.goteach.ca 1-866-912-4465

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Help Wanted. Make money around school. Secure a summer position. \$1705 per hour.

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Counselors: Combined childcare/teaching. Must be able to teach or lead one or more of the following activities: gymnastics, tennis, swim, sail, canoe, water ski, arts (including stained glass, sewing, jewelry, wood, photo), dance, music, theatre, archery, wilderness trips, field sports, equestrian.

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appt. Scholarships available. Conditions apply. Flexible schedule. 436-9444 or www.workforstudents.com/ab

Career and Placement Services (CAPS) is accepting applications for the position of Career Peer Educator for the next academic year. More information can be found at CAPS (2-1005UB) or on the web at www.ualberta.ca/caps. Deadline date: March 28, 2003.

VOLUNTEERS WANTED

Want to have some fun? Be a mentor to a Youth in Care (a young person 14-16 living in foster care or a group home). We need men to share a few hours every 2 weeks doing fun, group activities like volleyball, laser tag, cooking, etc. with dynamic energetic teens. Contact David at Big Brothers Big Sisters today at 424-8181 or davidfrench@bbs.org.

THREE LINES FOR A TOONIE

Hey sportsmen, looking to add some danger and excitement into your life? The University of Alberta Centennium Shirling Association is currently recruiting members. For more info visit www.ualberta.ca/~devlinshirling.html. So doesn't see magazine suck CHAD these days? Nice front "section," and redesign.

When I saw you I was afraid to meet you. When I met you I was afraid to kiss you. When I kissed you I was afraid to love you. Now that I love you I'm afraid to lose you. -LH

HAPPY BOB KNOWS

Campus events and more...

The Arrowgrills present the "Rock for Literacy" Battle of the Bands on Thursday, 20 March, 2003 at the Urban Lounge and Whisky Grill. Doors open at 7pm; show starts at 9pm. Admission is \$5 and all proceeds will be donated to various educational organizations. This annual philanthropic event is in support of a number of educational programs throughout Canada and the USA. Several bands will be performing in rock/alternative styles. Tickets are available at the door or from the Arrowgrills on Tuesday, 18 March, 2003 in SUB. For more information please contact Crystal Oleksyk at 439-2383.

The Department of Sociology and the Society of Edmonton Demographers present the 14th Annual Warren E. Kalbach Population Conference in the HM Tory Building Breezeway (TBW 2) on Thursday, 20 March, 2003 and Friday, 21 March, 2003 from 9am to 5pm both days. Thursday's program features results of research conducted through the Population Research Laboratory, the only facility of its kind in western Canada. Friday's theme is Aboriginal demography, and includes speakers from the School of Native Studies, Statistics Canada, the department of Sociology and the Department of Native and Northern Affairs. Papers will be collected into a festschrift in honour of Dr P. Krishnan, Sociology. Admission is free. For more information, please contact Erin Stepany at 492-5939.

The Sheldon Chumir Foundation for Ethics in Leadership, in conjunction with the Faculty of Arts, the Department of Philosophy, the Parkland Institute and the Social and Political Thought Network, presents "Escape From Politics" on Tuesday, 25 March, 2003 from 7:30-9:30pm in Tory Lecture Theatre 12. There is no charge for admission. Is the quality of democratic politics declining? Do citizens have a democratic responsibility they are not meeting? Many are engaged at the community level, what lessons can be learned from this and what steps can be taken to strengthen Canadian democracy? For more information, please contact DJ Guzza at 403-244-6666.

The Academic Support Centre presents a Study Strategies & Exam Preparation Workshop on Saturday, 29 March, 2003 from 10am to 3:30pm in 2725 SUB. The charge for admission is \$50 for students and \$100 for non-students. Covers time management, note-taking, reading and memory strategies; and how to study for and take multiple choice, short answer, essay and problem solving exams. Those planning to attend must pre-register. For more information, please contact the Academic Support Centre at 492-2682.

HBK is a service provided for Registered Student Groups and University Departments only. HBK is only printed in the Tuesday editions of the Gateway each week. HBK does not publish events that are weekly on-going, or not open to the public. Incomplete forms will not be submitted. Submissions will print for one issue only. Entry deadline is 3:00pm Fridays (submit your entry on the Friday before the issue you wish it to appear in). Submit to the Gateway Offices (3-04, third floor SUB) or fax to 492-6665.

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